

Page 18, between lines 30 and 31, insert the heading -- DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS .

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the attached pages 29-32, containing claims 1-26, which incorporate amendments made in the international application, for pages 29-31, containing claims 1-22.

Please amend the substitute claims 9, 10-15, 17, 19, 22 and 24-26 as follows:

A 9. A method or a protein or a use as claimed in claim 1, wherein one or more Asn residues in said ligand or said protein are replaced with a less alkaline-sensitive amino acid.

10. A method or a protein or a use as claimed in claim 1, wherein two or more Asn residues are modified.

11. A method or a protein or a use as claimed in claim 1, wherein all the Asn residues are modified.

12. A method or a protein or a use as claimed in claim 1, wherein Asn residues on the surface of the three-dimensional structure of the ligand or protein are modified.

13. A method or a protein or a use as claimed in claim 1, wherein said Asn residues are replaced with an amino acid selected from lysine, aspartic acid and leucine.

14. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said affinity ligand is a combinatorial protein.

15. A method as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises the step of:
c) selecting a randomised affinity ligand by expression in a surface display library.

AR
17. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said combinatorial protein is derived from an immunoglobulin molecule or a fragment or derivative thereof, staphylococcal protein A (SPA) or a fragment, domain or derivative thereof, or a DNA binding protein, or fragment or domain thereof.

AB
19. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said affinity ligand comprises Albumin-Binding Protein (ABD) or a fragment or derivative thereof.

AM
22. A protein as claimed in claim 6 wherein said combinatorial protein is derived from an immunoglobulin molecule or a fragment or derivative thereof, staphylococcal protein A (SPA) or a fragment, domain or derivative thereof, or a DNA binding protein, or fragment or domain thereof.

AS
24. A protein as claimed in claim 6 wherein said affinity ligand comprises Albumin-Binding Protein (ABD) or a fragment or derivative thereof.

25. A nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein as defined in claim 6.

26. A host cell expressing a protein as defined in claim 6.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Insert page 33 containing an Abstract of the Disclosure.

REMARKS

The above amendments are made to include modifications made to the claims during the international phase, to eliminate the multiple dependencies, and to add an Abstract of the Disclosure.